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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Superintending School Committee

OF THE

TOWN OF WALPOLE,

WITH THE

HIGH SCHOOL REPORT.

1862-63.

BELLOWS FALLS, VT.

PRINTED AT THE PHENIX JOB OFFICE.

1863.

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1885-86.

PRINTED AT THE PRESS OF
BELL & BELL, VT.
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REPORT.

DISTRICT No. 2.—There were three terms of school in this District, Summer, Fall and Winter. The first term was taught by Miss Sarah A. Cobb, who appeared anxious to succeed, and some progress was made, but more energy would have been beneficial to the school.

Miss Ellen M. Smith taught the Fall and Winter terms. The scholars learned very well during the first term; but, although the teacher appeared to labor with equal zeal, the last term was not as successful. This is a difficult school to govern, and the lack of proper discipline during the past year has been prejudicial to its interests. Another very great evil is the irregular attendance. And still another evil is the sending scholars to school with many kinds of books, or without any books. Will the parents see that their children are supplied with proper books, and are constant at school, if they wish them to learn?

In the statistical table, the first and second terms must be reported together, as the Summer school.

No. 3.—Miss Mary L. Watkins had the care of the Summer term. Her reputation as a good teacher was fully sustained, and we were well pleased with the appearance of the school at its close.

The Winter school was taught by James H. Brown. At our visit near its commencement all appeared well, and we saw no reason why it might not be a profitable term; but as we were disappointed in our intention to visit the school at its close, we cannot say whether the teacher was in all respects successful.

No. 4.—Miss E. A. Kingsbury teacher. Miss Kingsbury is one of our most successful instructresses. Her Summer term passed pleasantly and profitably; and so likewise did the Winter school, ex-

cept that three or four scholars were disposed to annoy the teacher and make a disturbance, who were old enough to know better, and who should have realized that their time was too valuable to be squandered in idleness and conduct unbecoming scholars almost arrived at the period of manhood, which should be a gentlemanly manhood, if they expect the esteem and respect of society. It is true generally that as are the habits and character of the boy, so will be the characteristics of the man.

No. 5.—This school had one term of sixteen weeks, taught by Miss Nettie R. Burnham, with decidedly good success.

No. 6.—Miss Carrie O. Mason taught this school during the year, viz: a Fall and Winter term. This is a very small school, but in it we find some of our best scholars, and they all appeared to make study their business. Miss Mason has had all the success here which we could ask. Recitations, even of the smaller scholars, were remarkably good.

No. 7.—Here also a Fall and a Winter term was taught by the same teacher, Miss Mary F. Proctor, with very good success. The scholars are not very forward, but considerable progress was made, and the general appearance of the school was satisfactory.

No. 8.—Summer school taught by Miss Nettie R. Burnham. Its order was excellent, and advancement very good.

Winter term by Mr. Leonard Wellington. The commencement promised well, but he was sick, and left the school one week before its close, and the term was finished by his sister Miss Irena. The last visit of the Committee was the third day of Miss Wellington's stay, and all seemed so new to the scholars that it was difficult to decide what the real merit of the school had been.

No. 9.—was taught in Summer by Miss Emogene I. Fay, and in Winter by Miss Mary L. Watkins. Both were efficient and successful teachers.

No. 10.—This school was taught in Summer by Miss Rosella E. Fay, and in Winter by Mr. John L. Houghton. Both terms were well and successfully managed.

No. 11.—Miss Estelle M. Hooper had the care of the school during Summer. It was visited once by Mr. Wheelock, who left Town during the term. The other Committee were not notified in season to visit, consequently we cannot speak of the merits of the school.

The Winter term was taught by Miss Cornelia A. Hodskins with efficiency and skill.

No. 12.—The Summer school was taught by Miss O. A. Chamberlain. At our first visit, the school appeared very well, but when we visited it at its close, we found only about one-half the scholars present, and although some of the recitations were fair, the general appearance of the school was not entirely satisfactory.

Mr. George Davis was employed for the Winter term, and at the commencement appeared to be doing well; but as, after teaching eleven weeks, he was taken sick and had to leave his school, we did not visit it the second time, and therefore we cannot speak of his ultimate success.

No. 13.—was taught during Summer by Miss Irena Wellington, and during the Winter by J. Livingston Greene. Both were successful and profitable schools.

No. 14.—Miss Ellen E. Wood taught the Summer term, and Miss Emogene I. Fay the Winter term. It is sufficient for us to say that both were successful teachers.

GENERAL REMARKS.

We think our schools have prospered quite as well during the past year as heretofore; but there is still great need of improvement. The whole number of absences in all the schools in Town during the past year was 9,728, which we find to be about one-seventh of the whole attendance. Thus one-seventh of all our schooling has been wasted by scholars being absent, saying nothing about the large number of tardinesses. The sum of 2,747 dollars was applied to the support of schools the past year, one-seventh of which, the amount wasted by absences, is 392 dollars and a fraction over; consequently, could your scholars all have been present when the schools kept, you might have saved the 392 dollars, and received

all the benefit that was received from the expenditure of the whole amount. All Districts have not been alike remiss in this matter. The absences have varied from very few in the more prompt Districts, two two-sevenths of the whole schooling in the most dilatory. Where else in all your affairs can be found so great a waste of money? But that is but a mere trifle compared with the loss of time and opportunities of the young, which can never be recalled; and the formation of pernicious habits, which will probably cling to them during their whole lives. If parents and townsmen would consider and realize the great objects to be accomplished by our common schools, we believe they would awake from their indifference, and sustain and improve them by all and every means within their power. Where, but in our free schools, are the great masses of children to receive that education and culture, which shall fit them to become valuable members of society, and prepare them to take part understandingly in the movements and interests necessary to perfect and perpetuate our free institutions and government? With our people universally educated and intelligent, both mentally and morally, would not our institutions be safe? If the masses are to be ignorant and degraded, is there any safety for a republic? Parents, with you rests very much of the responsibility in regard to our schools. If we are to have constant attendance, good order, and studious scholars, we must have your co-operation. You must see and know that your children are at school constantly and in season; and you must support and assist the teacher in maintaining order. It will not do to speak disparagingly of a teacher to your child, or complain in his hearing if he is corrected, if you would have him profit by the school. It is perfectly natural that parents should be inclined to think their children *just right*, but this should not lead you to judge a teacher hastily, because all children are liable to err; and if you think your children are wronged, you had better go and visit the school and see for yourselves; or talk with the teacher, or committee, or both about it; but never find fault with the teacher to your scholar, unless you wish to neutralize all benefit he could receive from the school.

We wish to call attention to a matter, which may be considered a little oneside from schools, but which is, in reality, so intimately connected with their interests, that it cannot well be separated.

The New Hampshire statutes, as you know, make it a teacher's duty to impress upon the minds of scholars the principles of piety and justice, &c.; or, in other words, to assist in forming correct characters and morals for them. Now if this is the teacher's duty in school, what is the parent's interest out of school? Is it to send his scholar at large into the streets to seek such company as he chooses, without knowing where he is or in what mischief he is engaged? Or is it for the parent's interest to know that his scholar is in good company, with proper playmates, and in a proper place, where he can see and know that his child is not being corrupted or led into evil? These inquiries apply, to some extent, to all Districts, but with greater force to village Districts. We have been pained to see the collections of boys at the corners of our streets and upon piazzas, engaged in conduct and conversation most degrading and vicious; constituting a school of vice, where each might act the part of both teacher and pupil. And just here we wish to call attention to what we believe to be the fact, that those boys who follow their own inclinations and are foremost in mischief in the streets, are generally our bad boys in school. There is great need of reform in this respect.

We still have reason to complain that some teachers do not fill out their registers with proper care. We wish that Prudential Committees would regard the law that requires teachers to fill out their registers correctly, return them to the Superintending Committee, and receive a certificate that they have so done, to be presented to the Prudential Committee, before they are entitled to their pay.

J. WM. KNIGHT,
J. L. GREENE.

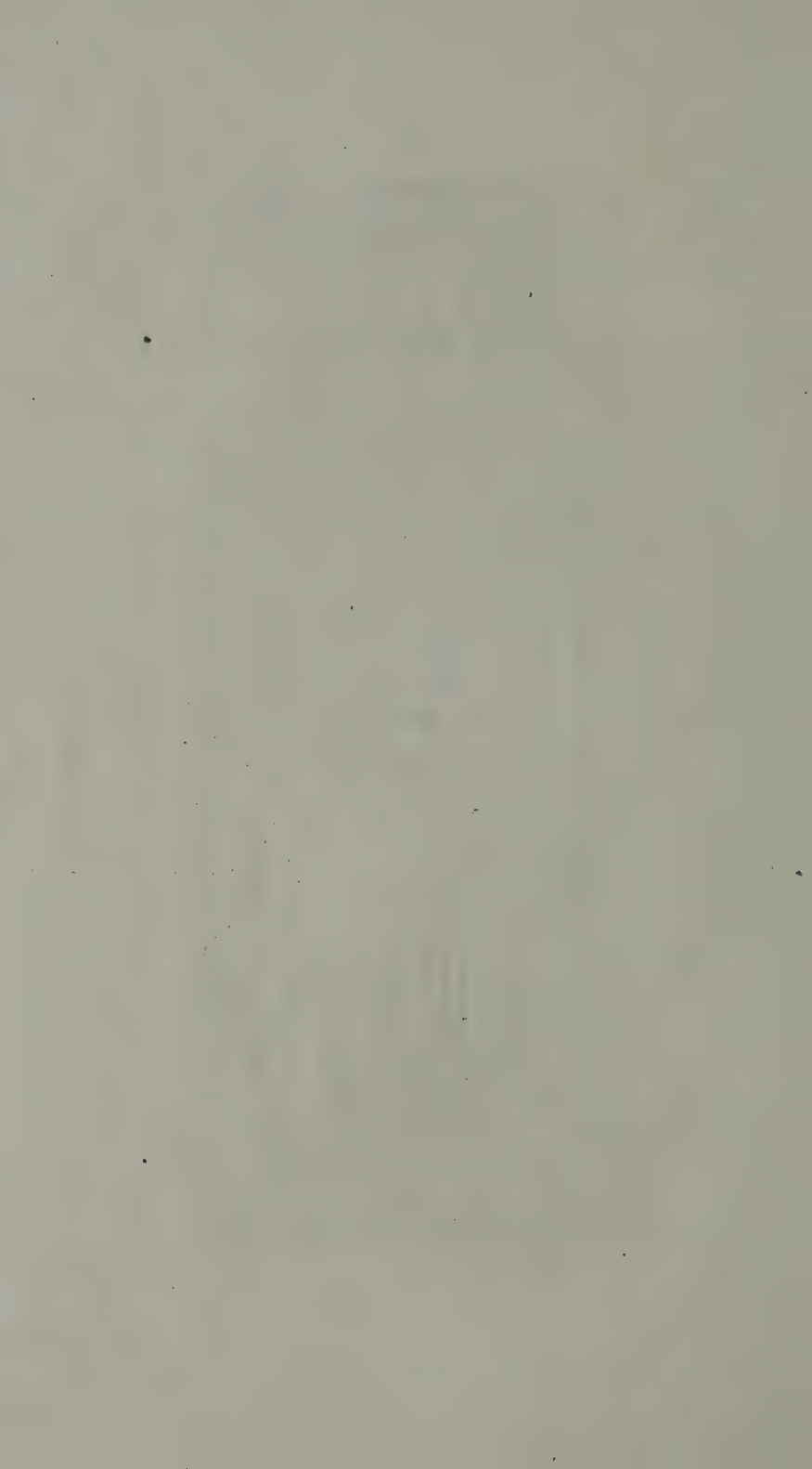
TABLE I.
SUMMER SCHOOLS.

DISTRICTS,-----	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Length of School, in weeks,-----	20	12	12		8	4	12	12	10	8	20	12	12
Wages of female Teacher per month, including board,-----	\$16	\$14	\$16		\$12	\$10	\$11	\$13	\$11	\$14	\$16	\$12	\$18
Scholars 4 years of age and upwards,-----	34	25	36		11	13	15	28	14	16	34	22	17
Average attendance,-----	26	19	31		10	12½	13	22	12½	14	21	17½	15
Number of Scholars between 4 and 16,-----	34	25	36		10	13	15	28	13	16	34	21	17
Number of Scholars over 16,-----	0	0	0		1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Number of tardinesses,-----	372	11	10	No School.	3	7	39	18	8	17	57	19	53
Number not absent,-----	1	4	5		5	8	3	4	5	2	4	6	1
Number not tardy,-----	3	17	31		8	8	4	21	9	7	15	15	6
Number neither absent or tardy,-----	0	4	2		4	5	3	3	5	2	4	6	0
Number of absences,-----	880	402	325		43	11	132	396	70	88	1155	280	140
Number of visits by Superintending Committee,-----	4	1	2		3	1	2	2	2	1	2	4	2
Number of visits by Prudential Committee,-----	0	1	0		1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Number of visits by citizens and others,-----	24	52	45		21	4	44	86	38	30	14	20	17

TABLE II.

WINTER SCHOOLS.

Districts,-----	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Length of School, in weeks,-----	12	14	15	16	14	14	12	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	12	11	11	11	12
Wages of male Teacher per month, including board,-----	\$18	\$27	\$25	\$26	\$20	\$22	\$28	\$26	\$31	\$23	\$28	\$30	\$24
Wages of female Teacher per month, including board,-----	35	30	37	11	8	16	22	31	23	16	23	22	25
Scholars 4 years of age and upwards,-----	29 $\frac{1}{2}$	26	33	10 $\frac{1}{4}$	7 $\frac{3}{4}$	15	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	29	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	14	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	20
Average attendance,-----	35	27	34	11	5	16	20	25	18	12	22	18	22
Number of Scholars between 4 and 16,-----	1	3	3	0	2	3	0	6	5	4	1	4	3
Number of Scholars over 16,-----	206	46	19	23	2	16	85	16	5	3	81	13	9
Number not absent,-----	0	5	2	0	3	1	2	12	8	3	0	10	3
Number not tardy,-----	7	11	28	3	8	12	9	21	20	13	0	13	19
Number neither absent or tardy,-----	0	3	2	0	3	1	2	12	6	3	0	6	3
Number of absences,-----	429	300	328	58	20	99	297	136	110	122	325	92	330
Number of visits by Superintending Committee,-----	2	1	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	3	1	3	2
Number of visits by Prudential Committee,-----	0	0	1	1	1	3	0	1	0	1	0	0	1
Number of visits by citizens and others,-----	15	12	32	56	20	56	24	63	50	35	5	17	60



SCHOOL REPORT DISTRICT NO. 1.

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT.

Miss Lizzie M. Hooper taught the first term, but did not succeed in maintaining order satisfactory to herself or your Committee. But we do not consider Miss Hooper an inefficient teacher. There were causes calculated to produce such a result. The school had been in a bad state of discipline previous to coming into her hands ; and when she found it necessary to punish scholars, she received opposition instead of support and assistance from parents. Miss Hooper labored faithfully and diligently, and the scholars made fair progress.

The second and third terms were under the care of Miss Ann L. Grout, who also failed to establish proper discipline. Miss Grout worked very hard for her school, and considerable advancement was made ; but it was impossible to accomplish as much as she could have accomplished with better order. We believe that in some schools Miss Grout might have entire success.

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL.

The Spring term was taught by Miss Abbie P. Blake. Although this was not a very poor school, yet there was apparently more effort to make a superficial display than to go thorough in the branches studied ; and we found that the scholars had gone over more than they had learned. And we think it our duty to state that, notwithstanding all that was said in our last report in regard to filling out the registers in this District, Miss Blake left the most important part of hers incomplete, and we had to do her work.

The Autumn and Winter terms of this school were taught by Miss M. Theresa Davis, of Lowell, Mass. Miss Davis came well recommended, having graduated at one of the High Schools in her

own city. Although young and inexperienced in school teaching, yet she felt herself competent for the task before her. She labored hard during the first term, to make the school a good one; but at its close, we felt that it had not been so profitable as we could have wished. Some of the recitations on the day of examination were quite passable; but the discipline was not what it should have been. Miss Davis felt that she could do better another term, having become acquainted with the pupils; and both Committees after consultation, as there was but little time to look for another teacher, thought it advisable for her to try once more. She accordingly commenced and taught the term through, meeting with some minor obstacles, successfully. Your Committee visited the school several times during the term, and found it improving in discipline, and a gradual advancement in the studies pursued. On the day of examination, the school appeared quiet and courteous in behavior, and the recitations have not been more satisfactory for many terms. We have never seen more sympathy and good feeling exhibited between teacher and pupils, than at the close of the Winter term. A few families were not pleased with the school; but we think a large majority of the District were well satisfied.

HIGH SCHOOL.

In the Spring there was no school in this department.

The Autumn and Winter terms of the High School were taught successfully by Mr. A. P. Richardson. Mr. Richardson, although the number of pupils was large both terms, which made his duties multifarious and arduous, sustained his well-earned, good reputation, gained in former years. Mr. Richardson is a competent, faithful and industrious teacher. Your Committee feel gratified in having an opportunity of expressing its entire satisfaction with the success of the teacher, and the progress made by the pupils.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The annual reports of our schools are generally looked for with much interest, by those who are interested in the general welfare of the youth in our State. Not so much however, for the wholesome suggestions and good counsels they may contain, as what may be said of teachers who have succeeded in teaching a school well.

or those who have been less fortunate. We never shall succeed in having good schools, until we come to the conclusion to all work together, both in word and deed, to encourage those teachers who are competent, in well doing; and aid and sustain those who may not be found so competent and well skilled in teaching. No committee has the wisdom to determine in the examination of two teachers, equally well qualified in all that relates to books, whether the one will succeed, or the other fail. A teacher may make a total failure in one school, and succeed admirably in another. Hence, disappointments arise, and all concerned have meant well. Now what shall be done? Shall a teacher be dismissed for some trivial failure, after having been examined and approbated? Is it for the interest of the school and district, for parents to countenance idle and injurious stories, among themselves, and before their children, about their teacher? Shall parents uphold their children in disobeying the lawful and just regulations of the district and teacher? In other words, shall parents countenance open rebellion? We answer no. Our opinion is, that when teachers are approbated by a committee, chosen for the purpose of looking after the interests of our schools, they should be encouraged and sustained, unless something transpires to weaken the confidence of the committee in the ability of the teachers to govern or teach, which would make it incompatible for the good of the schools that the teachers should longer remain. And who would be most likely to find teachers unqualified, the committee, or parents who are never seen in a school-room, from the beginning to the end of the year? Parents, if your committees are unfortunate in the selection of teachers, make the best of it for the time. Do not use your influence to weaken the discipline of schools, and thus wrong your children and waste your money. Our schools in this District have been taught by five different teachers the past year, with various successs. Some of the teachers have succeeded well, others have not succeeded so well, but none have made an entire failure. The average success has been above mediocrity. While your Committee cannot make so favorable a report of all the schools as they could wish, still they feel conscious of having done all in their power to make the schools good ones. Superintending Committees, as such, know no privileges to be granted to one class of pupils over another, neither do

they know riches or poverty, high life or low, but the general good of all. If we have not satisfied all, it is not because we have not tried to do our duty. But if we have been acceptable to a majority, we have accomplished all we could reasonably expect.

GEORGE ALDRICH,
J. WM. KNIGHT.

TABLE III.

DISTRICT No. 1.

	SPRING TERM.			FALL TERM.			WINTER TERM.		
	Primary.	Intermediate	High School	Primary.	Intermediate	High School	Primary.	Intermediate	High School
Length of school, in weeks, - - - -	12	12		12	12	12	12	11	12
Wages of Teacher per month, inc'g board, -	\$18,00	\$22,00		\$18,00	\$24,00	\$55,55	\$20,00	\$24,00	\$55,55
Scholars 4 years of age and upwards, -	49	33		45	32	56	38	36	43
Average attendance, - - - -	40	27		34	24	40½	29½	28	35¼
Scholars between 4 and 16, - - - -	49	33		45	32	37	38	33	26
Scholars over 16, - - - -	0	0		0	0	19	0	2	17
Number of tardinesses, - - - -	64	7		24	121	56	52	117	37
Number not absent, - - - -	2	7		2	4	5	5	4	7
Number not tardy, - - - -	25	30	No School.	32	12	39	25	8	27
Number neither absent or tardy, - - -	0	4		2	4	5	4	3	7
Number of absences, - - - -	500	361		68	480	330	541	385	495
Visits by Superintendent Committee, -	9	7		6	7	9	6	7	10
Visits by Prudential Committee, - -	3	1		5	5	6	2	2	2
Visits by citizens and others, - - -	120	22		49	20	84	85	72	137

